



Workforce Board

Electronic Newsletter

From the desk of Ellen O'Brien Saunders, Executive Director

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Save Money, Register Early for *Workforce Strategies 2005: Partnering for Strong Communities*

There is still time for early registration for the upcoming *Workforce Strategies 2005: Partnering for Strong Communities* conference and for one of the two pre-conference events taking place October 24-26.

Kicking off the pre-conference schedule on October 24 is a five-hour workshop presented by Candace Moody, National Association of Workforce Boards, entitled *Building Partnerships: Workforce and Economic Development*. In the afternoon, Dr. Susan Quattrociocchi will be discussing *The Shocking Truth About Education and Work: Living, Learning, and Earning in America* for those who are interested in the connection between K12 and success in the world of work. End the day by joining us for a Welcome to Spokane reception sponsored by our Host Committee.

On October 25, the conference opens with instant workforce polling soliciting our opinions and knowledge of critical workforce issues followed by an array of workshops dealing with economic development, paths out of poverty, and emerging policy.

Guest luncheon speaker on Tuesday is Dr. Avis Jones-DeWeever, the Study Director for Poverty and Welfare Programs at the Institute for Women's Policy Research. Dr. Jones-DeWeever has a PhD in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland where she specialized in public policy and the politics of race. Her areas of expertise include poverty in urban communities, ensuring educational opportunity, and the impact of welfare reform.

Following an afternoon of workshops, and a networking reception hosted by the Association of Washington Business, join us for Dinner with a VIP. Sign up to have dinner with one of our guest speakers or session panelists. It's your opportunity to network in a more intimate setting, learn in more detail what they think, and share your views and experience.

A special focus at this year's conference will be pending legislation both at the state and national level. At the state level, legislators of both parties will share their views on wage progression. Confirmed speakers to-date at this special Wednesday workshop include:

- Representative Glenn Anderson, 5th District (Sammamish to Maple Valley and over to Snoqualmie Pass), is assistant ranking minority leader on the Appropriations committee.
- Representative Steve Conway, 29th District (Lakewood, University Place, Parkland area), is chair of the House Commerce and Labor committee.
- Representative Don Cox, 9th District (Medical Lake to Pullman, Ascotin to Othello), is the ranking minority member on the Higher Education committee.
- Representative Bill Fromhold, 49th District (Hazel Dell/Vancouver area) is Vice Chair of the Appropriations committee.
- Representative Bill Hinkle, 13th District (Easton to Moses Lake, and down to Terrace Heights), is ranking minority member on the Children and Family Services committee.
- Representative Phyllis Kenney, 46th District (parts of Seattle), is chair of the Higher Education committee.
- Representative Derek Kilmer, 26th District (Bremerton/Gig Harbor area), is vice chair of the Technology, Energy and Communications committee.
- Representative Kelli Linville, 42nd District (Blaine/Bellingham area), is chair of the Economic Development, Agriculture and Trade committee.
- Representative Timm Ormsby, 3rd District (Spokane), is vice chair of the Capital Budget committee.
- Representative Dave Quall, 40th District (Skagit County), is chair of the Education committee.
- Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, 36th District (King County), is chair of the Labor, Commerce, Research and Development committee.
- Senator Phil Rockefeller, 23rd District (Kitsap County) is vice chair of the Water, Energy and Environment committee.
- Senator Cheryl Pflug, 5th District (King County), sits on the International Trade and Economic Development as well as the Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education committees.

Throughout the conference, especially for those who missed a breakout session or just want to learn more about a particular topic, the Workforce Board is setting up a Resource Café (yes, complete with comfortable armchairs and a coffee bar) so delegates can pick up presentation materials, and get contact information from this year's presenters.

Now in its fifth year, the leadership conference is hosted by the Workforce Board, with additional sponsorship this year from Clark College and the Association of Washington Business. Conference Patrons include the Employment Security Department, Department of Social and Health Services – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges; with Contributions from Bellevue Community College, Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, Olympic College, and Shoreline Community College; and Donations from the Department of Services for the Blind and Grays Harbor College.

More details about the conference, as well as the two pre-conference events, hotel accommodation, a preliminary agenda, and **online registration** are available at www.wtb.wa.gov/conf04.doc.

This is a conference you won't want to miss. So register now! We'll see you there.

Meeting to Discuss Skamania County Request

There will be a hearing on October 3 to discuss the Skamania County Commissioners' request to move Skamania County out of the Southwest Workforce Development Area (WDA) into the Ti-County WDA. Originally scheduled for September 1, the October 3 is a date change.

The meeting follows a request from Skamania County Commissioners McKee, Richardson, and Pearce to the Workforce Board requesting the Governor move them from a WDA comprised of Skamania, Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum Counties to one comprised of Klickitat, Yakima, and Kittitas Counties.

According to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, the Workforce Board is to recommend to the Governor the geographic makeup of the WDAs and do so in accordance with the 2000-2005 Workforce Investment Act State Plan. Area designation takes into consideration the following: 1) geographic areas served by secondary and postsecondary institutions; 2) the extent to which the proposed area is consistent with labor market areas; 3) the distance that individuals will need to travel to receive services within the proposed area; and 4) resources within the proposed area available to effectively administer WIA Title I-B program services.

The meeting will begin at 1:30 PM at 240 NW Vancouver Avenue in Stevenson, Washington. Hearing officer is Ellen O'Brien Saunders. Contact her at 360.753.5660, or esaunders@wtb.wa.gov.

Field Tests Scheduled for Work Readiness Credential

Washington State will host three of the field tests to be conducted across the country for the Work Readiness Credential on November 14 (Spokane), 15 (Yakima), and 18 (Everett). The Spokane Chamber of Commerce, Perry Technical Institute in Yakima, and Snohomish County Workforce Development Council are spearheading the employer recruitment for these tests, as well as hosting. Please note: More employers and their entry-level workers are still needed in each test site.

Scheduled to “go live” in spring 2006, the credential will measure non-technical “work-readiness” skills needed by employers across industries. New jobseekers and entry-level workers who earn the credential will be able to show employers that they have demonstrated the ability to apply situational judgment, reading, math, and communication skills in a work-related context. Education and training providers will be able to understand their students’ achievement of the skills measured and create or match curricula and assessments that will prepare students for work. This will be especially helpful for people with little or no work experience or education credentials.

In late 2004, the Center for Workforce Preparation (CWP) at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce adopted the credential as a major project. CWP brings marketing, strategic planning, and business engagement expertise, and their website, <http://www.uschamber.com/cwp/strategies/workreadinesscredential.htm>, has more details about the project.

To participate in the field tests, please contact Mike Brennan, 360.586.8683, or mbrennan@wtb.wa.gov.

Focus on Targeted Populations

The 2005 edition of *Workforce Focus* is bigger and better than ever! Available now either as complete sets or population-specific (i.e., Women, Hispanics, African Americans, Native Americans, Asians/Pacific Islanders, and People with Disabilities) pamphlets, *Workforce Focus* provides workforce information—all in a single document. For example, there is data for each population on how much they earn per hour; how many are employed; in which industries and age categories; and whether they are more likely to be working in urban or non-urban areas. As in the previous edition, there is also data on their performance in workforce development programs, their completion rates, wages, and program satisfaction.

Free copies of *Workforce Focus* can be downloaded from our website at www.wtb.wa.gov/pubs or by contacting us at 360.753.5660. For additional information about the survey, contact Evelyn Hawkins at 360.753.5652, ehawkins@wtb.wa.gov.

Performance Levels Adjusted for Program Year 2004

Washington State has proposed modifications to its Workforce Investment Act Program Year 2004 performance levels. Under federal law, states can request revisions in the event of unanticipated circumstances such as significant changes in the economic conditions for the state. To view the adjusted performance levels and to access background information, go to <http://www.wtb.wa.gov/wiaperfpropy04.doc>. Comments on these new levels should be sent to Martin McCallum, mmccallum@wtb.wa.gov, by September 30.

Eligible Training Provider List Performance Analysis Complete

The Workforce Board recently completed the annual performance review of the more than 2,000 training programs on the Eligible Training Provider (ETP) list. To remain eligible for the current program year (July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006), training programs had to meet state ETP performance standards, which were adopted by the Workforce Board in March 2005. As a result of the review, approximately 200 programs were removed from the list and about 30 programs

returned to the list after being off due to performance last year. To view actual performance outcome data for ETP list programs, including employment rate and earnings of program completers, visit www.wtb.wa.gov/jtr/default.asp.

For more details about either Job Training Results or the Eligible Training Provider list, contact Karen Pyle, 360.664.4622, or kpyle@wtb.wa.gov.

Briefly

Supplemental Budget Request for Skill Panels

The Workforce Board is to seek \$1 million in general fund monies in the 2005-2007 budget to sustain and expand skill panels.

How to Work With Multilingual Populations

The U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration has just unveiled a new website to assist employers and workforce development agencies and organizations when working with multilingual and multicultural populations. To access the site, go to www.doleta.gov/reports/CensusData/LEPhispanic_initiative.cfm.

Governor's Awards on Disability Issues Set for November 1

The Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment will announce the winners of the 2005 Governor's Award on November 1 in Redmond. The awards are presented annually to employers and individuals who best promote the employment of individuals with disabilities. To facilitate judging this year, new categories have been introduced. Winners will be chosen by small, medium, large profit and nonprofit employers, government employers, and youth employers. More details about the program from Melinda Johnson at 509.482.3851, or melindajohnson@comcast.net.

Health Care Website Almost Live

Kudos to the Pierce County Health Council. They are working on a health educator network website and marketing campaign which will provide loads of information about the need for, and benefits of, being a health educator. Watch for the site coming soon to www.healthjobs4you.com.

Get on a WAVE

Get on a WAVE (Washington Award for Vocational Excellence)! Order your free 24.5 x 9 posters and envelope-sized flyers now. Geared for school counselors and career and technical educators to provide information about the WAVE program, the promotional material is targeted at young people interested in obtaining the equivalent of two years of college tuition free. Call Diane Donahoo at 360.753.0892, or ddonahoo@wtb.wa.gov for your free copies.

Upcoming Events:

October 24-26: The *Workforce Board's* annual Workforce Strategies conference takes place at the WestCoast Ridpath Hotel in Spokane. Register online at www.showworksinc.com/WFReg_form_05.html.

The *Washington Association for Career and Technical Education* is holding a Connections Workshop entitled Academies, Career Clusters and Small Learning Communities. Date is **October 31** at the Hilton Vancouver Convention Center. Opening keynote speaker is Peter Yarrow, founder of Operation Respect which is dedicated to creating a safe and caring

environment for children in schools. Details at www.wa-acte.org/pdf_files/Connections%20Brochure.pdf.

November 1: This is the date for the 12th annual *ACCESS (Allying Companies, Communities & Employers with Skills for Success)* conference, job fair, resource and technology expo scheduled to take place at the Microsoft Conference Center in Redmond. More details on the one-day event at www.accessnw.org.

November 2-5: The *National Network of Sector Partners'* national conference will take place at the Drake Hotel in Chicago. For more information, contact Kaitlin McNally-Murphy at 510.251.2600, ext. 130, or kaitlin@nedlc.org.

Circle **November 14-15** for the 2005 *It's My Life* conference taking place in Baltimore, MD. The conference targets those who guide transition services for young people who 'age out' of foster care. Online registration is restricted to the first 600 registrants. More details are available from Tina Janek at 512.327.9507, or tina@tinajane.com

November 16-19: The *Washington State School Directors'* annual conference is scheduled for the Westin Hotel in Seattle. The conference will have a new format this year, and will include a number of breakout sessions with topics ranging from small schools to nutrition and diversity. To register online, go to wssda.org/wssda/WebForms/En-Us/AnnualConference/RegandHotelIntro.asp.

Focus 2005, the *Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE)* national convention will take place in Kansas City from **December 8-10**. This is a change from the original New Orleans venue. This year's conference will center on the collaboration between education and workforce. More details at www.acteonline.org/convention/index.cfm.

Funding Opportunities

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation has announced the third year of its Innovation Fund. The fund this year provides one-time grants to spark the creation or expansion of mentorship or internship programs serving high-achieving, low- to moderate-income high school or college students. Each grant will total up to \$150,000, cover one or two years of program work, and is non-renewable. The foundation anticipates awarding three grants, which will be announced in March 2006. The RFP, which closes on October 3, can be found at www.jackkentcookefoundation.org/jkcf_web/content.aspx?page=2414227&_redir=389.

The Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) invites schools and graduate programs of public health to participate in a Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Initiative. A nonprofit organization that promotes health through partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions, CCPH hopes, through this initiative, to proactively support educational institutions that are ready to focus on eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities. This program does not involve awarding grants, but rather providing consultation services. Deadline for a Call for Applications is October 10. More details at <http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/>.

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) has announced a national grant competition for Project Reach: Service Inclusion for Community College Students. Eight community colleges will be selected to create model programs for either students with disabilities or their support services. Grants of up to \$7,000 will be awarded for year one of the program. Grant funds up to \$20,000 per year, per college, are expected for years two and three, pending Congressional authorization and funding. Twenty-five percent of the grant amount must be matched by cash or in-kind support from public or private sources. Applicants, who must be member institutions of AACC, should go to www.aacc.nche.edu/ for more details. Closing date is November 1.